



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Disaster Response  
Operations HQ  
Clinton, MS 39056  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Paige Roberts  
228-990-6712  
[robertsp@usa.redcross.org](mailto:robertsp@usa.redcross.org)

---

## ***RETURNING HOME AFTER THE FLOOD***

### ***American Red Cross offers flood safety tips***

**Clinton (MS) May 25, 2011**— The American Red Cross wants Mississippians to be safe when returning to their homes after flood waters recede. First, follow the advice of local authorities. Do not return until they say it is safe to do so. If possible, leave children and pets with a relative or friend. Before entering the home, look outside for damaged power lines, gas lines, foundation cracks and other exterior damage.

Other safety tips about first inspection and cleaning flooded homes:

- Beware of snakes, insects and other animals that may be in or around your home.
- If you smell natural gas or propane, or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and contact the fire department.
- If your home was flooded, assume it is contaminated with mold.
- Turn the main electrical power and water systems off until you or a professional can ensure that they are safe.
- Check the ceiling and floor for signs of sagging.
- Be careful when moving furnishings or debris because they may be waterlogged and heavier.
- Throw out all food, beverages and medicine exposed to flood waters and mud, including canned goods and containers with food or liquid that have been sealed shut.
- Throw out items that absorb water and cannot be cleaned or disinfected, such as mattresses, carpeting, cosmetics, stuffed animals and baby toys.
- Some cleaning solutions can cause toxic fumes and other hazards if mixed together.

For more information, go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

#### *About the American Red Cross:*

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches life-saving skills; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization—not a government agency—and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. For more information, please visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or join our blog at [www.redcrosschat.org](http://www.redcrosschat.org)*